

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

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S E C R E T SET 1 OF 3 VIENNA 1287

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: AD HOC GROUP MEETING 12 FEB 1974

BEGIN SUMMARY: ON FEBRUARY 12, THE AD HOC GROUP,  
CHAIRLED BY GREEN REP, ADDRESSED THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

THE FIRST DRAFT OF AN ORAL REPORT ON MBFR TO BE  
PRESENTED TO THE NATO COUNCIL ON 15 FEBRUARY BY THE  
DUTCH REP; BILATERAL REPORTS ON US/USSR (SEE  
VIENNA 1258 FOR FULL REPORT) AND CANADIAN/ROMANIAN  
MEETINGS; AND THE ISSUE OF THE COMPOSITION OF THE  
WESTERN PARTICIPANTS IN AN INFORMAL SOCIAL MEETING  
WITH EASTERN REPS SCHEDULED FOR THE EVENING OF 13  
FEBRUARY. THE COMPOSITION OF THE WESTERN PARTICI-

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PANTS, AS WELL AS THE TALKING POINTS TO BE USED BY

THEM, WILL BE DETERMINED AT THE 13 FEBRUARY AD HOC AHG MEETING  
END SUMMARY.

1. THE CHAIRMAN OPENED THE MEETING BY ASKING FOR  
REPORTS ON ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS. THE BELGIAN REP  
SAID HE HAD SPOKEN WITH THE POLISH REP ON THE  
QUESTION OF THE FREQUENCY OF PLENARIES. HE REPORTED  
THAT THE POLISH REP STATED THAT THE EASTERN SIDE  
WANTED TO CONTINUE HAVING TWO PLENARIES A WEEK.  
THE BELGIAN REP ASKED THE GROUP IF HE SHOULD  
CONTINUE TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THE WESTERN SIDE WOULD  
MAKE A STATEMENT AT ONLY ONE PLENARY MEETING PER  
WEEK. THE AHG AGREED THAT THAT WAS THE CASE AND  
SETTLED UPON THURSDAY PLENARIES AS THE MEETINGS AT  
WHICH SUCH WESTERN STATEMENTS WOULD BE MADE.

2. 15 FEBRUARY ORAL REPORT TO NAC

THE CHAIRMAN THEN ASKED THE NETHERLAND'S REP TO  
ADDRESS THE FIRST DRAFT OF AN ORAL REPORT ON AHG  
ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD OF 26 JANUARY TO 15  
FEBRUARY 1974, WHICH HE PREPARED FOR PRESENTATION  
TO THE NAC ON 15 FEBRUARY. BESIDES BILATERALS,  
THE REPORT FOCUSED ON THE FOLLOWING: THE 30 JANUARY  
INFORMAL MEETING OF THE US AND USSR REPS; THE 31  
JANUARY PLENARY PRESENTATION BY THE UK REP; THE 5  
FEBRUARY PLENARY PRESENTATION BY THE SOVIET REP; THE 5 FEB  
US/POLISH MEETINGS; THE 6 FEBRUARY INFORMAL EAST/WEST  
MEETINGS; AND THE 12 FEBRUARY PRESENTATION BY THE NETHERLANDS REP.

3. IN ADDRESSING THIS REPORT THE NETHERLANDS REP  
NOTED THAT HE PROPOSED TO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF THE  
NAC TO THE IMPORTANCE OF DEALING WITH THE EAST  
EUROPEAN CONCERNS THAT THE WEST IN THE INTERVENING  
PERIOD BETWEEN NEGOTIATING PHASES MIGHT BUILD UP ITS  
FORCES IF NO SUB-CEILINGS WERE AGREED IN THE COURSE  
OF PHASE 1 NEGOTIATIONS. HE NOTED THAT THE NAC  
SHOULD DEAL WITH THIS SUBJECT AT SOME POINT BUT LEFT  
IT TO THE AHG TO DECIDE WHETHER THE PRESENT TIME WAS  
AN APPROPRIATE ONE FOR RAISING IT. THE UK REP

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COMMENTED THAT CERTAINLY NATIONAL SUB-CEILINGS OR  
"FORCE FREEZES" WOULD BE ONE WAY TO MET THE CONCERNS  
OF THE EAST AND CERTAINLY THIS SUBJECT HAD BEEN  
RAISED IN THE COURSE OF BILATERALS. HOWEVER, HE  
BELIEVED THAT THE MANNER IN WHICH THE NETHERLANDS  
REP RAISED THIS SUBJECT IN HIS REPORT COULD RAISE  
SOME UNCLEAR IMPLICATIONS. THE REPORT SEEMS TO IMPLY  
THAT IF THE EAST ACCEPTS THE CONCEPT OF FORCE FREEZES

THEN IT WOULD ALSO ACCEPT THE COMMON CEILING CONCEPT. HE SAID THAT THIS WAS AN OVERSTATEMENT BECAUSE IT IMPLIED THAT AGREEMENT ON FORCE FREEZES IN-BETWEEN NEGOTIATING PHASES COULD ACTUALLY RESULT IN GREATER AGREEMENT IN OTHER AREAS THAN IS ACTUALLY POSSIBLE. THE FRG REP COMMENTED THAT WHILE IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE HELPFUL IF AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED ON THE CONCEPT OF FORCE FREEZES IN-BETWEEN NEGOTIATING PHASES, SUCH AGREEMENTS MIGHT INVOLVE SPECIFIC FREEZES ON NATIONAL FORCES IN THE NGA AND THIS WAS UNACCEPTABLE. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE WAS NOT SURE THAT A FREEZE ON OVERALL GROUND FORCE MANPOWER IN THE NGA WOULD MEET THE CONCERNS OF THE EAST. THE UK REP ADDED THAT IT WOULD GO SOME WAY TOWARDS MEETING THE EASTERN CONCERN.

4. THE ITALIAN REP STATED THAT THIS WAS A SUBJECT ON WHICH THE ALLIANCE HAD NOT REACHED ANY PRIOR AGREEMENT AND STATED THAT IT SHOULD BE DELETED FROM THE NETHERLANDS REP'S REPORT. THE UK REP WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE ALLIANCE NEEDED, BEFORE REACHING AGREEMENT ON THIS CONCEPT, TO ANALYZE IT FURTHER. SPECIFICALLY, HE SAID, THE ALLIANCE WOULD HAVE TO EXAMINE THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM: WHAT WOULD BE THE TERMS OF THE OFFER WHICH THE WEST WOULD MAKE TO THE EAST; WHAT WOULD BE THE TIMING OF THIS OFFER. THE NETHERLANDS REP STATED THAT HE RECOGNIZED THAT THE ALLIANCE HAD NOT REACHED AN AGREED POSITION ON THIS MATTER BUT BELIEVED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE NAC BE INFORMED ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF A PROBLEM IN THIS AREA. HOWEVER, HE RECOGNIZED IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO PROPOSE SOLUTIONS THOUGH IT WAS DESIRABLE TO RAISE THE ISSUE. THE CANADIAN REP NOTED, IN ADDRESSING THE NETHERLANDS REP'S DRAFT REPORT

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TO THE NAC, THAT THE FACTS SHOULD BE PRESENTED AS THEY OCCUR. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE NOTED THAT THE POLISH REP HAD ACTUALLY REPORTED THIS SUBJECT IN HIS 5 FEBRUARY MEETING WITH THE US REP (SEE VIENNA 1038, PARA 4).

5. THE US DEP REP STATED THAT THE NETHERLANDS REP'S REPORT AS DRAFTED ACTUALLY WENT BEYOND THE PRECEDENT OF PREVIOUS REPORTS BECAUSE IT FORMALLY RAISED ISSUES FOR NAC DISCUSSION INSTEAD OF SIMPLY REPORTING ON THE EVENTS AS THEY TOOK PLACE. THE US DEP REP RECOMMENDED THAT THE DUTCH REP REVISE HIS PAPER BY FOLLOWING THE OUTLINE FORMAT OF THE BELGIAN REP WHO REPORTED TO THE NAC ON 25 JANUARY. THE DUTCHREP STATED THAT HE WOULD REVISE HIS FORMAT

BUT WANTED TO MAKE CLEAR THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT  
THE AD HOC GROUP SPOKESMAN REPORT TO THE NAC ON  
THE CONCERNS OF THE EASTERN SIDE AND INDICATE TO  
SOME EXTENT THE TREND OF THEIR THINKING. THE US  
DEP REP AGREED THAT THIS WAS THE CASE BUT NOTED THAT,  
GIVEN THE FACT THAT ALL NAC MEMBERS RECEIVE

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PARM, NATO, MBFR  
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